

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, 10, 13, 18, and 20 are independent. Claims 9, 11, 14, and 19 have been amended merely as to formal matters in response to the Examiner's objection, and are submitted as placing the claims in better form for appeal. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 9, 11, 14, and 19 is requested. These claims have been amended in a manner that is believed to overcome the stated basis for objection.

No new matter is involved with these claim amendments, which have been filed concurrently with the filing of the accompanying Notice of Appeal and Pre-Appeal Brief Conference Request. Applicant submits that entry of this Amendment after Final Rejection is therefore proper.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that each of pending claims 1-20 in this application is in immediate condition for allowance. Arguments traversing the art rejections in the Final Office Action will be submitted by separate correspondence in the arguments accompanying the Pre-Appeal Brief Conference Request.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number indicated below. For any fees that are due, including fees for extensions of time and Appeal-related matters, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment during the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 03-3975, under Order No. 060258-0277084 from which the Undersigned Attorney is authorized to draw.

Due Date: October 2, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

**Electronic Signature:** \_\_\_\_/Larry J. Hume/\_\_\_\_

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